



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

July 15, 1977

FOR THE DIRECTOR

To: P - Mr. Habib
H - Mr. Bennet
EA - Mr. Oakley

D/HA - Mr. Carlin
Mr. Lowman
Mr. Cushing
Mr. Schneider

From: D/HA - Patricia M. Derian

Memorandum of Conversation with Congressman
Joshua Eilberg (D-Pa.)

(I placed the call and spoke with Mr. Eilberg's assistant, Gene Zack. Since the Congressman was on a plane, I gave Mr. Zack an abbreviated gist of the message.

Jim Carlin then reached me to say that we should hold off because the Attorney General was thinking the matter over during the weekend, since that was his duty.)

Mr. Eilberg called me and I told him the following:

1. The President hoped to go ahead with the parole of the 15,000. The Attorney General was to review the matter over the weekend. The President called for a study which will seek solutions to the long-term problem.

2. The Congressman's idea of an international conference is a very interesting one and we're going to think about it with the study.

3. We thank him for his idea and want to work with him because of his interest and expertise. We want to hang together because we are all seeking the same objective, etc.

4. We hope no premature news stories break, but a lot of people have been working on the matter and I've noticed that many people exercise their first amendment privileges, so it might come up sooner than we expected. (Now, twenty minutes later, I'm calling him back because Bernie Kalb has it for the evening news tonight.)

He told me:

1. Thanks and that he was grateful. (Apparently, only his staff man had spoken with him so it was new information.)

2. He was anxious that the standard procedure would be followed: Attorney General (who has the statutory responsibility) will consult with the appropriate members of House and Senate. I assured him that this would be done. (Note to Jim Carlin: Please be certain that you transmit all of this to your Justice Department contacts with particular emphasis on consultation with Members of Congress.)

3. He wanted to be sure that the President had not "directed" the Attorney General to go ahead. I said there's no arm twisting. The President directed the Secretary of State to send the issue to the Attorney General in the standard way.

4. He then outlined the questions he is asking the Attorney General and wants us to add to those we already have. Appended.

5. I gave brief answers in terms of the people who are already in this country, he said he knew those figures and mentioned yesterday's legislation adjusting their status to permanent residents and the benefits that would result.

6. If Attorney General consults, there's a very good chance that he'll conduct an immigration subcommittee hearing.

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7. Then we spoke of the problems he's had with the media ... "some editorials and cartoonists have been very anti ..." and we commiserated about how tough it is when that happens.

Then I found out about Bernie Kalb's plans for the evening news and called him back exceptionally grateful for the call and said so several times. We ran through the President to Secretary to Attorney General again and reiterated that the President was not telling the Attorney General what he had to do.

Then he said that he "personally would reserve judgment until he had the facts" and "assured" me that he would give the matter "real consideration" because he wants to do what is right and fair. And I said that was responsible and his duty. And we exchanged some more pleasantries and thanks.

Conclusion: Talking to Mr. Eilberg before the evening news was extremely useful. He doesn't want any more bad press, but he also doesn't want to feel that the Administration isn't consulting him and letting him exercise his responsibilities.

Things to do:

Jim Carlin - Make sure Justice is prepared, and soon, to consult with Members of Congress and that the Attorney General calls Eilberg, particularly in person.

Shep Lowman and Hank Cushing - Try to get the answers to these and other questions as quickly as possible and send them to him at 2135 Rayburn Building, marked PERSONAL.

All: Who else should we talk with in the Congress? Shouldn't we speak with the same people the Attorney General is supposed to consult?

D/HA:PD/cc

We have concerns:

To be asked of the Attorney General

1. ~~Are these people~~ ^{use people} how easily can they be assimilated into our population?

2. We would assume that people who might come in as parolees are not excludable by immigration laws (not to admit people who are ill) health and political activities & criminal records

4. Inspection ^{by district INS} His understand that INS Director Sam Feldman who might be very helpful in screening. Who they are and

5. Why are these 15,000 being considered? ^{What are they like?} Are they relatives or are they involved with US companies. Re the 7,000 boat cases, what is their make-up. Can they adjust to us - be assimilated? Concern is that they might become public charges. 62% only earn between \$10--200 per week.

Have put through legislation yesterday for their benefit - examinations, schooling, acceptance by military.

If Attorney General has consultation, very good chance that the Congressman would be willing to conduct the subcommittee hearing.

PD mentioned great exercising of 1st amendment; we're trying not to say anything - not rushing out to talk about wonderful thing that's being done.

Congressman has really taken a great deal of criticism.

CG E: some editors and cartoonists have been very anti.